

REMARKS

Considering first the rejection under 35 USC § 112, while it is believed that the original specification fully supports claim 6, as previously amended, in order to advance prosecution, Applicant has cancelled the objected-to language from claim 6, and has, instead incorporated into independent claim 6, a portion of claim 8 which finds support in original claim 3, and also in a paragraph beginning at line 6 on page 5 of the original specification.

Turning to the art rejection, the Examiner refers to Endo as rendering claims 6-10 obvious. More particularly, the Examiner cites Endo as teaching deposition of two silicon nitride films in which the composition of the gas mixture is changed. Be that as it may, in Endo, the first deposition step employs silane and nitrogen gases, while the second step in Endo employs silane and ammonia gases. Applicant's independent claim 6 requires a mixture of ammonia and silane in both the first and the second deposition steps. Moreover, this distinction is more than merely academic. Endo specifically teaches against the use of ammonia as a hydrogen source in the first step (see Endo column 3, lines 34-41). Accordingly, in view of the counterindications contained in Endo, Applicant's independent claim 6 and the several claims dependent thereon cannot be said to be obvious from Endo.

Having dealt with all the objections raised by the Examiner, the Application is believed to be in order for allowance. Early and favorable action is respectfully requested.

Enclosed is Form PTO-2038 in the amount of \$60.00 to cover the cost of the One-Month Extension of Time.

HAYES SOLOWAY P.C.
3450 E. SUNRISE DRIVE,
SUITE 140
TUCSON, AZ 85718
TEL. 520.882.7623
FAX. 520.882.7643

175 CANAL STREET
MANCHESTER, NH 03101
TEL. 603.668.1400
FAX. 603.668.8567

In the event there are any fee deficiencies or additional fees are payable, please charge them (or credit any overpayment) to our Deposit Account Number 08-1391.


Respectfully submitted,



Norman P. Soloway
Attorney for Applicant
Reg. No. 24,315

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to: MAIL STOP AMENDMENT, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on June 12, 2007, at Tucson, Arizona.

By 

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HAYES SOLOWAY P.C.
3450 E. SUNRISE DRIVE,
SUITE 140
TUCSON, AZ 85718
TEL. 520.882.7623
FAX. 520.882.7643

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